



**Relying on
the Qur'an and Sunnah
to maintain security
and protect lives**

**Abdul Aziz
ibn Abdullah
ibn Baz**

**Relying on the Qur'an and
Sunnah to maintain security
and protect lives**

**التحاكم إلى الكتاب والسنة في حفظ
الأمن وحماية الأرواح**

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Publisher

Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Endowments,
Call and Guidance

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -

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Translator's introduction

All praise is due to Allah; we praise Him and seek His forgiveness.

We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls and the wickedness of our deeds.

He, whom Allah guides, none can misguide him, and he whom He misguides, none can guide him.

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, alone, without partner.

His is the dominion and His is the praise.

He gives life and causes death, and He is over all things competent. Now then:

I have translated the book before you, entitled (**Relying on the Qur'an and Sunnah to maintain security and protect lives**) by (**Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Baz**) because of the many benefits and advantages it contains for the Muslim.

This translation is my own effort. If I do well, it is from Allah and His guidance to me, and if I make a mistake, it is from myself and from Satan.

I ask Allah to make this work of mine purely for Him and to spread the word of truth throughout the entire earth and to teach Muslims who do not speak Arabic their religion that Allah has chosen for them.

The one in need of his Lord's forgiveness: **Omar bin Ahmed Tohamy**.

Referring to the Qur'an and Sunnah

Praise be to Allah, and may blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family, his companions, and those who follow his guidance. As for what follows:

It is well known to anyone with the slightest insight that the hijacking of airplanes, the hijacking of human beings from continents, and other such grave global crimes result in immense corruption, terrorizing and harming innocents, the likes of which only Allah can count. It is also well known that the harm and evil of these crimes does not pertain to any particular country or sect, but rather to the entire world.

There is no doubt that crimes of this caliber are incumbent upon governments and officials, scholars and others, to pay the utmost attention to them and to exert all possible efforts to eliminate and eradicate their evil. Allah has revealed His Noble Book as clarification of everything and as guidance, mercy, and good tidings for Muslims. And He sent His Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, as a mercy to the worlds and a proof for all His servants. He made it obligatory for all mankind to rule by His Shari'ah and refer disputes to it, and to refer disputes over matters to His Book and the Sunnah of His Messenger Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, as Allah Almighty said:

﴿فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا﴾

“But no, by your Lord, they will not [truly] believe until they make you, [O Muhammad], judge concerning that over which they dispute among themselves and then find within themselves no discomfort from what you have judged and submit in [full, willing] submission.” [An-Nisa': 65]

And Allah Almighty said:

﴿أَفَحُكْمَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَبْغُونَ ۚ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ﴾

“Then is it the judgement of [the time of] ignorance they desire? But who is better than Allah in judgement for a people who are certain [in faith].” [Al-Maidah: 50]

And Allah Almighty said:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِيَ الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ ۚ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ۚ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result.” [An-Nisa: 59]

The scholars, may Allah have mercy on them, have agreed that referring to Allah means referring to His Noble Book, and referring to the Messenger means referring to him during his lifetime and to his authentic Sunnah after his death, peace and blessings be upon him. Allah Almighty said:

﴿وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكُّهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ﴾

“And in anything over which you disagree - its ruling is [to be referred] to Allah.” [Ash-Shura: 10]

These noble verses and others similar to them all indicate the obligation to refer disputes among people to Allah, the Exalted, and to the Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him. This means rejecting the ruling of Allah, the Almighty, and being wary of anything that contradicts it in all matters, most importantly of which are matters whose harm and evil are widespread, such as kidnapping.

The duty of the state in whose hands the kidnappers fall

It is the duty of the state in whose hands the kidnappers fall to rule over them in accordance with Allah's law, given the rights of Allah and His servants, the numerous harms, and the great corruption that result from their heinous crime. There is no solution that can eradicate this crime and put an end to its evil except the solution set forth by the Most Wise of Judges in His Noble Book, and with which He sent the most sincere, best, and most merciful of creation, the Master of the First and the Last, Muhammad - upon him be the best of blessings and peace from his Lord - and this is the solution that the kidnappers and the kidnapped, as well as those connected to them and others, must understand. Their hearts must be reassured by it if they are believers, for Allah commanded His Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, to rule over them in accordance with Allah's law, as He, the Most High, says:

﴿وَأَنِ احْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ﴾

“And judge, [O Muhammad], between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations” [Al-Ma'idah: 49]

And:

﴿وَإِنْ حَكَمْتَ فَأَحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِالْقِسْطِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ﴾

“And if you judge, judge between them with justice. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.” [Al-Maidah: 42]

Based on what we have mentioned, it is the duty of every country to which the kidnappers resort to form a committee of Islamic legal scholars to look into the case, study it from all angles, and rule on it according to the law of Allah. These committees must rule on the case in light of evidence from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and they must be guided in this by what the Islamic legal scholars have mentioned regarding the verse on Al-Muharaba¹ in Surat Al-Maidah, and what the scholars of

¹ Technically, it is called "highway robbery." It is defined as appearing to steal money, kill, or intimidate, openly and stubbornly, relying on force. Highway robbery is a major sin and, according to the consensus of scholars, is one of the prescribed punishments. The Qur'an calls its perpetrators "warriors against Allah and His Messenger" and "those who spread corruption in the land." The punishment for such crimes is extremely severe, as Allah, the Almighty, says: "Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and strive upon earth [to cause] corruption is none but that they be killed or crucified or that their hands and feet be cut off from opposite sides or that they be exiled from the land. That is for them a disgrace in this world; and for them in the Hereafter is a great punishment" [Al-Maidah: 33]

each school have mentioned in the chapter on the ruling on highway robbers. Then they must issue their ruling supported by Islamic legal evidence. The government to which the kidnappers resort must implement the Islamic legal ruling in obedience to Allah, in reverence for His command, in implementation of His law, and out of a desire to achieve security, mercy, and justice for the kidnapped.

Muslims are not permitted to resort to man-made laws.

As for the laws that people have established for this purpose without relying on the Book of Allah Almighty and the Sunnah of His Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, they are all human-made, and it is not permissible for Muslims to resort to them for judgment. Some of them are not more deserving of being referred to than others, because they are all from the rulings of the Jahiliyyah²³ and from the rulings of the Taghut⁴, against which Allah has warned. He has attributed to the hypocrites the desire to resort to them for judgment, as Allah, the Most High, says:

﴿أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَحَاكَمُوا إِلَى الطَّاغُوتِ وَقَدْ أُمِرُوا أَنْ يَكْفُرُوا بِهِ وَيُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُمْ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَإِلَى الرَّسُولِ رَأَيْتِ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنْكَ صُدُودًا﴾

“Have you not seen those who claim to have believed in what was revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what was revealed before you? They wish to refer legislation to Taghut, while they were commanded to reject it; and Satan wishes to lead them far astray. And when it is said to them, "Come to what Allah has revealed and to the Messenger," you see the hypocrites turning away from you in aversion.” [An-Nisa: 60-61].

It is not permissible for Muslims to imitate the hypocritical enemies of Allah by resorting to other than Allah and turning away from the rule of Allah and His Messenger. It is not permissible to use as an excuse of what most Muslims have fallen into today, namely resorting to man-made laws, because that does not justify it, nor does it make it permissible. Rather, it is one of the most reprehensible of reprehensible acts, even if the majority has fallen into it. The fact that the majority have committed a matter is not evidence of its permissibility, as Allah, the Most High, said:

﴿وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوا أَكْثَرَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ﴾

² Jahiliyyah is an Islamic term mentioned in the Medinan surahs of the Holy Quran. It refers to the lives of nations before Islam and links them to their religious ignorance. This term is not specific to Arabs, but rather encompasses all peoples before the mission of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.

³ The rule of Jahiliyyah: that which men established without any basis in the law of Allah, as the people of Jahiliyyah used to rule with it from the errors and ignorance, which they established with their opinions and whims, and as the Tatars ruled with the royal policies taken from their king Genghis Khan, who established for them the Yasaq, which is a book compiled from rulings that he had taken from various laws, from Judaism, Christianity, and the Islamic religion, and in it are many rulings that he took from his own opinion and whims, so it became a law followed by his people, who preferred it over ruling by the book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace.

⁴ Taghut is anyone who acts tyrannically against Allah. So, everyone who is worshipped other than Allah, and is satisfied with being worshipped, followed, or obeyed in a way other than the obedience to Allah and His Messenger, is a Taghut.

**“And if you obey most of those upon the earth, they will mislead you from the way of Allah.
They follow not except assumption, and they are not but falsifying.”[Al-An`am: 116].**

Every rule that contradicts Allah's law is a rule of Jahiliyyah.

Every ruling that contradicts Allah's law is a ruling from the time of ignorance. Allah Almighty says:

﴿أَفَحُكْمَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَبْغُونَ ۚ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ﴾

Then is it the judgement of [the time of] ignorance they desire? But who is better than Allah in judgement for a people who are certain [in faith]. [Al-Maidah: 50].

Allah Almighty also informs us that ruling by other than what Allah has revealed is disbelief, injustice, and immorality. He almighty says in Surat Al-Maidah:

﴿وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

“And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the disbelievers.” [Al-Maidah: 44].

﴿وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ﴾

“And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the wrongdoers.” [Al-Maidah: 45].

﴿وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ﴾

“And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the defiantly disobedient.” [Al-Ma'idah: 47].

These verses and others similar to them require Muslims to beware of ruling by other than what Allah has revealed and to disavow it. They must hasten to accept the ruling of Allah and His Messenger, be open-hearted about it, and submit to it. If the incident is one that causes widespread harm, such as kidnapping, then referring the ruling to Allah and His Messenger is more urgent and more binding than in other cases. Because Allah, glory be to Him, is the All-Wise, the All-Aware, the Most Wise of judges, the Most Merciful of the merciful. He knows what is best for His servants, how to ward off harm from them, and how to prevent corruption in their present and future lives. Therefore, it is necessary to refer disputes to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), because they contain sufficiency and conviction, the solution to every problem, and the elimination of all evil for

those who adhere to them, adhere steadfastly to them, rule by them, and resort to them for judgment, as previously explained in the decisive verses. Given the enormity and gravity of this crime, I deemed it necessary to write this statement as advice to the Ummah, to clear our conscience, to remind the public of this great duty, and to cooperate with those in authority in righteousness and piety. Allah is responsible for improving the conditions of Muslims, guiding them to His straight path, and enabling their governments to rule by Islamic law, to resort to it for judgment, and to adhere to it in all matters. He is Generous and Bountiful. May Allah's blessings and peace be upon His servant and messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions.

Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Baz

Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, may Allah have mercy on him.